

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application of: )  
 Applicant(s): Martin Stanley Johnson et al. )  
 Serial No.: Unassigned )  
 Conf. No.: Unassigned )  
 Filed: December 2, 2003 )  
 For: IMPROVEMENTS IN VALVE )  
 TECHNOLOGY )  
 Art Unit: Unassigned )  
 Examiner: Unassigned )

*I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.*

December 2, 2003  
 Date

  
 Express Mail Label No.: EV032698124US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket No.: 0247.68775	Serial No.: Unassigned
	Applicant: Martin Stanley Johnson et al.	
	Filing Date: 12/02/03	Group: Unassigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,134,949	Oct. 24, 2000	Leon et al.			Jun. 21, 1999

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	EP 0294157 A1	Dec. 7, 1988	EPO				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner	Date Considered
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\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.